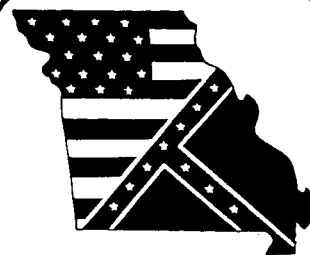


The Western Campaigner

Journal of the Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association

Editor: David Christy ~ Work: 580-758-3255 • Pager: 580-548-9925
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NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER
1997

November MCWRA executive, general meetings

Yearly dues, budget for '98 discussed with one-price \$10 membership set

The MCWRA Board of Directors executive meeting was held at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 1 at Smitty's Restaurant in Republic, Missouri, with the general membership meeting following at 1:00 p.m.

Present at the general meeting were: Board of Directors president Ted Prater, treasurer Scott Hughes, secretary Janet Hussey, Ron Ulrich, Henry Johns, Walt Larsen and Dave Smith.

General membership present: unit representatives (voting): Terry Cadenbach, 4th MO Cav. US; Fred Norris, Medical; Ron Ulrich, 2nd MO CS; Bill Dedmon, 4th MO CS Inf.; Paul Imler, 1st MO Cav. CS; Jerry Lee, 5th MO CS; Greg Riley, Holmes Brigade; John Jenkins, 6th MO Inf.; Andy Hussey, 9th MOSS.

Other members (non-voting): Derrick Haley; David Roggensus, DNR/Holmes Brigade; Cherrie Mann, CLO; Deby Thompson, 6th MO Inf.; John Martin, 1st MO Cav; Eddie Cox, 1st MO Cav; Nancy Atkins, 1st MO Cav; Jim Atkin, 1st MO Cav; Michael

Williams, 4th MO Inf.; Harold Sites, 4th MO Inf.; Michael Gibson, 4th MO Inf.; Dan Kessler, 4th MO Inf.; Karen Johns, 4th MO Cav; Byron Chaney, 9th MOSS; Ann Emler, 1st MO Cav; Eric Hasek, 1st MO Cav; John Farris, 1st MO Cav; Sara Garrett; Cindy Lee, 5th MO Inf.; DeWayne Willis, Holmes Brigade; Shari Willis, LUAS; Beverly Johnson, CLO.

The meeting was called to order by MCWRA president Ted Prater. A quorum of the Board of Directors and unit leaders was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dave Smith.

Scott Hughes moved, Dave Smith seconded that the minutes of the Aug. 2, 1997 meeting be accepted as published in the September/October 1997 *Campaigner*. Motion carried.

Treasurer Scott Hughes reported a current balance of \$1,334.61, all checks having been deposited and all bills having been paid. One more newsletter is plan-

Continued on Page 3

MCWRA BULLETIN BOARD

NOMINATIONS: MCWRA secretary Janet Hussey reminds everyone to get their nominations for president-elect and three board posts in to her. Absolute deadline for nominations is FEBRUARY 15, 1998.



NOTE TO MEMBERSHIP: there is an extra loose sheet included with this issue with membership roster names, addresses, etc. This is being provided since there was a problem with the Xerox machine on those two pages, which may have been blank on a large number of them. These sheets should cover the problem. --President Ted Prater



MCWRA will hold an association meeting on Saturday, Jan. 31, at Smitty's Restaurant in Republic, MO. The executive committee will meet at 11:30 a.m., and the general membership at 1:00 p.m.



Please note a new Area Code to reach THE EDITOR. The old 405 area code will change to 580 immediately. I now have call notes answering on my home phone should anyone need to leave a call back number or a message, since I am hard to reach after work hours. ~The Editor



Until further notice, due to a limit on space in *The Campaigner*, some member submissions may not be able to be included, since MCWRA has gone to an every other month format. Thanks for bearing with us. ~The Editor



The Leasubrg, MO event scheduled for June 6-7 has been cancelled, according to organizers.

MCWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TED PRATER, President, 3028 Kansas Ave., Joplin, MO 64804 (Home: 417-781-

8874) tprater@ibm.net (Work: 316-232-0268) tprater@via-christi.org

WILLIE HUCKABEE, Past President, 805 Ozark, Morris, OK 74445 (918-733-2661)

HUCKTMR@aol.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Vacant

JANET HUSSEY, Secretary, 1481 State Rt. 0, Fayette, MO 65248 (816-248-3426)

SCOTT HUGHES, Treasurer, 8124 N. Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64118-11

(816-468-6711) CAVSCOTT@aol.com

JOHN BECK, 3506 S. Knight, Wichita, KS 67217 (316-942-2690)

IRONCLAD61@aol.com

JIM BECKNER, 2144 SW 150 Hwy., Lee's Summit, MO 64082 (816-322-3100)

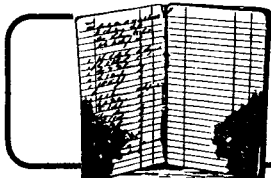
MERLE HODGES, 850 S. Santa Fe, Salina, KS 67401 (913-827-5451)

HENRY JOHNS, 899 E. 800 Rd., Lawrence, KS 66047 (913-748-0877)

WALT LARSON, 401 E. Main, Washington, MO 63090 (314-239-0977)

DAVE SMITH, 14375 Cnty Rd. 8450, Rolla, MO 65401 (573-364-6491)

RON ULRICH, 25854 Hamilton St., Macon, MO 63552 (816-775-2550)



The Editor's Notebook

◆ by David Christy ◆

CW Movie being financed

The Civil War film tentatively titled *To Live On* is planned for shooting in 1998 in the Kansas City area with financing from Universal Pictures, and directed by Ang Lee, who directed *Sense and Sensibility*.

The movie follows several boys from Jackson County who join William Clarke Quantrill's notorious border raiders.

Universal picked up the \$35 million project from 20th Century Fox, which declined to finance the project.

Two events listed for 1998

The Missouri Brigade Medical Service has requested that two events be listed during 1998 for informational purposes in *The Campaigner*.

On May 23-24 in Lexington, MO, the School of the Surgeon, Steward and Nurse. Contact Phil Woolfolk at 573-682-3396.

On Sept. 19-20 in Lexington, MO, living history, infantry drill, period demonstrations and evening medical candlelight tour. Contact Phil Woolfolk 573-682-3396.

Talihina, OK event planned

On June 6-7, 1998, the second annual Old Military Road Civil War Reenactment will be held in Talihina, Oklahoma.

The event will be held on 300 acres of private land located in the valley of the Kiamichi Mountains in far southeastern Oklahoma.

There will be two battles on Saturday and one on Sunday. Confederate and Federal infantry, artillery, cavalry, civilians, special impressions and wagons needed. There will be no fees for sutlers or reenactors, and usual amenities will be provided. There will be a Saturday evening meal provided for reenactors and a social, sponsored by the Talihina Chamber of Commerce and hosted by the 1st Texas Infantry, Co. F.

For more information contact Capt. Ron Miller, Rt. 5 Box 295C, Ada, OK 74820 or call 580-332-4379.

Ft. Leavenworth 'Border Ball'

On Saturday, Jan. 31, 1998 from 7:30 p.m. to midnight, the "Ball on the Border" Victorian Military Cotillion will be held at the Frontier Crossroads Club, formerly the Ft. Leavenworth Officer's Mess, Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

The ball will feature period dancing with instruction, entertainments, period libations, delicacies, savory tidbits and sweetmeats. A cash bar well-stocked with

spiritous liquors, wines and ales will be provided.

Attendees are invited to appear in period costume or military dress uniform. Cotillion instructor and dance mistress is the celebrated Mrs. Jerry Ann Beadles of Weston, MO.

Period music will be performed by the band "Clan White Thorn." Admission is \$20 per couple if purchased before Jan. 16, 1998. Admission at the door for a couple is \$25, with a \$15 charge for

singles in advance, or \$20 at the door.

Post your check to: Victorian Ball, 9 Buckner Ave., Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027.

The Ft. Leavenworth, KS Militaria Show and Sale will be held Sat., Feb. 7, 1998 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Frontier Crossroads Club in Ft. Leavenworth.

Admission will be \$2, and dealer tables \$20. For information phone 913-727-1409 or 913-651-3070.

If you find a mistake in a listing below, please advise this publication immediately.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Complete information as to contact person and phone number of sponsor or sponsoring unit, amenities, schedule, map or directions, will be included here or in stories in *The Campaigner*, as they are made available by event sponsors.

1998 Event Dates:

MARCH 7: Grand Ball, hosted by the CLO, to be held in Columbia, MO at the Holiday Inn Select. For info contact Linda Cantrell at 314-825-2846, or Karen Zeller, 618-235-0253.

MARCH 21-22: Fort Gruber, OK. ----**CANCELLED**.

APRIL 4-5: Wichita, KS. Maple Grove Cemetery, 200-500 reenactors, band concert, military demonstrations, 2 battles, medical demo., political debate, commemorative ceremony at memorial site. Event will attract participation in the preservation/restoration of historic Maple Grove Cemetery. (SANCTIONED)

APRIL 18-19: Fort Scott, KS. Federal weekend. (LISTED)

MAY 8-10: Vicksburg, Miss. Vicksburg Campaign (Champion's Hill, etc. (LISTED)

JUNE 6-7: Leasburg, MO. ----**CANCELLED**.

JUNE 13-14: Columbia, MO. Living history, skirmishes, period demonstrations, fashion show. (LOCAL)

JUNE 26-28: Fulton, MO. Kingdom Days. (LOCAL)

SEPT. 12-13: St. Charles, MO. Sponsored by 9th Mo. Bn., CS. Contact Robert Smith (314-662-2442). Lewis/Clark campground on banks of Missouri River; 2 battles, ball, fashion show, medical demo., all meals prepared. (SANCTIONED)

SEPT. 26-27: Pilot Knob, MO. Sponsored by 4th Mo. Cav., US. DNR event. Contact Terry Cadenbach (573-697-5637 or 573-546-3454). Actual battle site, 600 reenactors; 2 battles, dance, medical demonstration, fashion show, raw

foods for 5 meals, 10 lbs. powder for artillery. (SANCTIONED)

OCT. 17-18: Wyandotte County Days, KS. Sponsored by 3rd Mo. Inf. (Crowleys); contact Dave Weaver (785-286-0158); 400-600 reenactors; 8-12 artillery, 60 cav.; 2 battles, dance, tour, medical demo., fashion show, living history, period baseball, raw foods & prepared meals; powder reimbursement for artillery. (MAXIMUM)

NOV. 7-8: Cabin Creek, OK. (SANCTIONED)

DEC. 5-6: Prairie Grove, AR. (LISTED)

TBA: Shelbina, MO. (LISTED)

APRIL 1999: Butler, Mo. Marais de Cygnes massacre. Contact Bred Vermaas (816-679-6059). Usual events including a horse race.

One-price membership set at \$10/year

Continued from Page 1

ned and can be covered by the balance. Henry Johns moved, Ron Ulrich seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. Passed.

Ron Ulrich announced that the Shelbina event tentatively scheduled for the 1997 event year has been postponed until September 1999, the second or third weekend. A representative of the Arkansas Reenactors Association announced that the Rutherford, AR event has been canceled. However, the Prairie Grove, AR event in December 1998 is still being held. It was also announced that for the time being, the Arkansas Park System has established that Arkansas events are "by invitation only". The Fort Gruber, OK event has also been canceled.

President Ted Prater reminded those attending of the necessity of getting the nomination ballots in prior to Feb. 15, 1998.

The following budget was presented to those attending:

MCWRA BUDGET 1998

Insurance Premium (annual)	\$2,200
Separately maintained account for insurance deductible	\$1,000
<i>Western Campaigner</i> - six issues annually (36¢ per copy plus postage, which possibly could be going up to 36¢)*	\$3,800
* (Bulk mail being investigated)	
Labels for <i>Western Campaigner</i>	\$ 100
Postal Box rental (annual)	\$ 45
MCWRA Roster, paper cost and production; postage	\$ 750
Forwarding postage from postal box, and misc. postage, incidentals	\$ 200
	\$8,095

Contingency expenses	\$ 905
TOTAL	\$9,000

EXPECTED MCWRA INCOME 1998

Dues, suggested \$10 (expecting at least 800 memberships to be sold in 1998)	\$8,000
\$200 toward insurance from at least five maximum/sanctioned events*	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$9,000

*It is expected that Leasburg, St. Charles, Pilot Knob, Cabin Creek and Wyandotte County will pay the \$200 insurance. (Fees will be requested from any other maximum/sanctioned events).

A local or listed event can be covered under the MCWRA liability policy by paying the \$200 event fee. The city or organization could also purchase an insurance rider (over and above the \$200 event fee) as "added insured" if they so desire.

A living history event, etc. could also be covered by paying the \$200 event fee; however, the board needs to set up a method for this and for getting something in the nature of a written contract as to price, what is covered, etc. This should not be done just over the phone, etc. It usually takes 3 - 4 weeks to add such a rider. It needs to be restated that the MCWRA insurance policy covers *paid* MCWRA members' liability should a spectator be injured; without such coverage the host unit, the event sponsor and possibly even the city could be held liable.

The \$2 "temporary membership" fee makes the person a "temporary" MCWRA member under the insurance umbrella for that event only. The current MCWRA policy covers up to ten events per season for the annual \$2,200 premium.

There was considerable discussion on the suggested one-price membership of \$10 per year. It was decided that:

- One member equals one vote; in a family situation, if another vote is desired (wife, another combatant, etc.) another membership is required. Membership entitles the member (and family in a family membership) to one vote, MCWRA liability insurance and the newsletter.
- In order for family members to be covered under MCWRA insurance in a family membership, all names of the family must be turned in to the treasurer.

Walt Larson moved and Paul Imler seconded that the membership dues be changed to \$10 across the board. The motion carried.

It was suggested that unit leaders remind their members that the dues have not been raised in 5-6 years, while postage has gone up 50%, as have other costs.

Terry Cadenbach has been working with the MCWRA database to devise a simple way to produce the roster using that database. He distributed the current unit lists to attending members and will mail the others. These lists should be returned to Terry by November 15 so that the roster has the correct and complete information and the directory can be produced as quickly as feasible.

It was noted that the zip codes must contain the extra four digits if bulk mail is to be used in the future. The roster will be sorted first by unit, and then alphabetically by unit member's name. If there is a mistake, update or paid member missing, Treasurer Scott Hughes should be advised, not Terry Cadenbach, as Scott has the master database. E-mail addresses would also be helpful.

President Ted Prater reported that he

had received a number of letters with suggestions and good ideas and that he is working on implementing same. He invited members to call or write the Board with suggestions. The Board members will be listed in each issue of *The Campaigner* so that it is easy to reach them.

Fred Norris informed the Board and membership of a proposed plan to standardize the medical units.

John Martin requested that unit sponsors and sponsors in general be very clear about what "amenities" will be, and then have them. If a reenactor knows in advance to bring food, hay and even firewood, it can be done. But a problem arises if those attending events expect such amenities and find out they are not available or are not in sufficient quantity when he/she is 200 miles from home.

John also mentioned that although the MCWRA policy establishes age 16 for combatants, there are no age limits on musicians, flag bearers, powder monkeys, etc. In battle scenarios in tall grass or when there are many participants, it is important to remind all involved that it is very difficult to see smaller participants and also to expect them to be as aware as an adult.

There have been repeated requests for maps, more descriptions of the event schedules, battle times, events, a person to contact, many signs, travel directions, etc. After the meeting, the secretary and president discussed this and for the 1998 season, the secretary will send out requests/reminder letters to event contacts with this reminder and request in order to have it appear in *The Campaigner*.

It was also pointed out that signs need to be larger, visible at night, not look like highway or park signs, and also that these signs be placed far enough from road turns and/or entrance so that trucks pulling horse trailers have time to safely slow down. It was also suggested that some sort of uniform logo might be established so that event signs in every state would be similar and recognizable.

Another suggestion to event sponsors and host units would be to be sure that local people (service stations, fast food restaurants, etc.) be advised of the location of an event to that they can give directions if asked.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 31, 1998 at Smitty's in Republic, Missouri. Scott Hughes moved, Paul Imler seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Hussey, Secretary

Victorian Rose Cotillion Ball March 7, '98 in Columbia, Mo.

The Confederate Ladies Organization (CLO) has announced that preparations for the 1998 Grand Ball have been completed. The Victorian Rose Cotillion will be held March 7, 1998 at the Holiday Inn Select in Columbia, MO.

Reservations for rooms should be made by Feb. 1, 1998 so those attending are assured a room in the block of rooms reserved for the ball. Deadline for ball tickets is February 28, 1998. This is to provide for a final count for the food caterer. Checks received after this date will be returned and admittance to the ball denied.

Room rates are \$66 per night with no limit to the number of people in the room. When calling to make a reservation (1-800-HOLIDAY) please mention that you are reserving a room for the Civil War Ball.

A signed attendance card, which will be enclosed with each invitation, must be presented at the reception table to gain admittance to the ball. In keeping with 1860's tradition, CLO requests that no one under the age of 16 years old attend the ball.

Tickets are \$22 per person. Send check or money to Linda Cantrell, 524 Meramec Station Rd., Valley Park, MO 63000, or call her at 314-825-2846.

The ball is located in the main building. Entrance to the ballroom is through the large golden doors. A special lobby adjoining the ballroom with a cash bar will be open. The lobby also contains a fountain for use as a back drop for pictures.

Old Time Photos will be attending to take pictures. They will be set by 6:00 p.m. For new people, dance lessons will be held in the ballroom from 6 to 7:00 p.m.

Letter to the Editor

New recruit needing help

A new potential recruit, Andrew Bean, of 2812 W. Maplewood, Springfield, MO 65807, wrote to *The Campaigner* the the MCWRA membership. He states he plans to join a Union regiment (cadet corps) sometime in the near future.

"I was wondering if someone could send me a list of supplies (uniform prices, weapon prices, etc.) because I need to start looking into this further," he says.

FOR SALE

USED 1863 Springfield for reenacting, \$200. Contact Quartermaster Alan Bowling, 5th Mo. Inf. (573) 442-9489 or <Acbsca@aol.com>

LOST

LOST: Melvern Lake Event in Confederate Infantry Camp--"Maki" built antique box filled with tent spikes, metal rods for wall/fly, wrenches, mallet. Contact Lang Perdue 785-234-6767 (W) or 785-271-0657 (H).



Letters to the Editor



Thanks for help with horse

Dear Editor:

On Oct. 25th in Spring Hill, TN, I was met with the misfortune of losing my cavalry horse to colic. While horse owners will understand the heartbreak of having to put down a fine animal, I would like to share my appreciation and thanks to everyone who helped me during this ordeal.

Someone once said, "your true friends will be with you in good times and bad." I am proud to be in such good company with Shelby's 5th Missouri and all reenactors. I could not ask to be associated with

a finer group of individuals. I look forward to our next event and God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Randy "RC" Coker

Shelby's 5 Mo. Cav., CS

P.S.: I don't know how to reach the Saturn people or reenactors outside of MCWRA, but I would like to thank them also for helping me out.

For Sale

Selling my McClellan saddle and 12 other pieces so you could ride tomorrow--\$750. Jim Beckner 816-322-3100.

WANTED

Information about and/or papers from the family of Capt. Hiram Bledsoe, who found in the Southern Cause commanding Bledsoe's Battery from 1861-65. Bledsoe's Battery was originally mustered in Lexington, Lafayette County, MO. Please contact LTC Jim Ahrens, Wentworth Military Academy and Jr. College, 1880 Washington, Lexington, MO 64067. 816-259-2221, ext. 516 (W) or 816-259-6403 (H) or by e-mail: jahrens@sound.net.

NOMINATION BALLOT FOR MCWRA

President Ted Prater, Janet Hussey, Henry Johns and Walt Larson will complete their terms of office in Aug., 1998. Please indicate your nominations below.

REMEMBER:

- 1) Nominees must be PAID members of the MCWRA.
- 2) Nominees must be contacted and their permission given to be nominated.
- 3) Nominees can only run for one position; i.e. if nominated for the Board, he/she cannot also be nominated for president-elect.

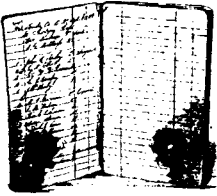
FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT . . . NOMINATE ONE

FOR BOARD MEMBER - three year term, ending August, 2001 - NOMINATE THREE

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

Return this nomination ballot to: MCWRA SECRETARY JANET HUSSEY, P.O. Box 417, Fayette, MO 65248

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION IS FEBRUARY 15, 1998



The Editor's Notebook

❖ by David Christy ❖

Crowley's, Shelby's reunion

The reunion for Crowley's Clay County Volunteer, infantry CSA, and Shelby's 5th Missouri Cavalry CSA, will be held Oct. 3-4, 1998. Anyone having any history of these units should contact Jim Beckner at 2144 SW 150 Hwy., Lee's Summit, MO 64082, or call 816-322-3100. More details will follow on this planned reunion.

CW discussion of ideas

Beginning Dec. 10 and continuing on the second Wednesday of every month, a series of monthly discussions will be held in the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Bowling in Florissant, Missouri.

The meetings will be open to anyone with an interest in American history, historical reenactment and/or the American Civil War.

The gatherings are designed as an informal forum for fellowship and the free exchange of information and ideas. While not an official organization with officers, dues, by-laws or formal membership, the meetings are designed to help those interested gather and share their talents and hobby with one another. No prior reenacting experience is necessary.

The only requirements for participation are an interest in the subject at hand and a willingness to leave partisanship and politics outside the door.

For more information write to Mrs. E.V. Bowling, PO Box 170163, St. Louis, MO 63117, or phone 314-837-7779. She may be contacted by FAX at 314-716-7058 or e-mail: S861165@umslvma.umsl.edu

Lone Jack Museum hours set

The Lone Jack, Missouri, Civil War Battlefield Museum and Cemetery, located at 301 S. Bynum Rd., Lone Jack, MO 64070 holds special tours and arrangements, and is open at various times of the year.

The spring-summer dates from April through October at Monday through Saturday, 9 to 5, and Sundays 1-5. From November through March, the museum is only open on Saturdays from 9 to 4 and Sundays 1-4.

The museum is staffed by the Lone Jack Volunteers, managed by the

museum board and the City of Lone Jack.

During 1998, the museum will host a commemoration August 15-16, during the Battle of Lone Jack reenactment. For more information contact Faye Dennison at the museum, 816-566-2272 or 816-697-2503.

Lose an item at an event? Find a canteen or bayonet? Items to sell? Send your ad to *The Campaigner*.

Permanent MCWRA mailing address

The permanent mailing address of the Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association is: MCWRA, PO Box 417, Fayette, MO 65248. You must write on the outside of envelope the correspondence is to go to the treasurer, president, etc.

Send all address changes and dues checks to this address, attention treasurer. Dues are \$8 a year for individuals and \$12 for family memberships.

FOR SALE

Original cavalry sabre and scabbard, \$350. Genuine Colt 1860 Army, early 2nd generation, Mfg. 1978 before numerical sequence was resumed at 200501---. Approx. 200 were non-sequentially numbered--RARE. 8-inch, 4 screw, Army model, cut for shoulder stock. .44 cal., powder flask and accessories. Original case, never been fired, \$1,200. Civilian model--same numerical as above. Powder flask & accessories, wooden case, never been fired, \$800. (816) 826-0968.

WANTED

I am trying to gather the following items of clothing to dress out a small company of Sons of Veterans Reserve, Sons of Union Veterans. If you have these for sale give me a call, or write a letter (I'm in MCWRA directory) and let me know the size, condition and price. John J. Martin, 2nd MO Inf. CS, 816-966-9496. -- Enlisted man's frockcoat; Company officer's frockcoat; Sack coats; Forage caps; Kepi caps; Trousers, sky blue kersey; Suspenders; Footwear.

FOR SALE

A-Tent 9x8x6 and Awning 8x8--Best Offer. Used one reenacting season. Carlene Berry 913-649-3062, evenings. Kansas City area.

1998 MCWRA Membership Form

Renewal New Change of Information

Membership Cost: \$10 per year

Name _____

Additional names (if family membership) _____

P.O. Box/Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Unit _____

Please mail with check to MCWRA, Attention Treasurer, P.O. Box 417, Fayette, MO 65248. Make check payable to MCWRA. Memberships are due yearly on January 1, with a cutoff deadline of April 1 of year year.

FOR SALE

1863 Sile Sharps Carbine, cav. model .54, exc. shape \$500; Navy Arms 12 ga. TNT shotgun \$300. Jeff Dunaway, (314) 692-8233.

An excerpt . . . 'Baseball - like it used to be'

by J. Charles Zeller

(An excerpt from his forthcoming book)

Legend has it that one fine spring day in May, 1860, Abraham Lincoln's home was visited by a committee from the Chicago Republican convention. Lincoln had been nominated as a candidate for President and this committee had traveled the distance to Springfield, Illinois, to formalize the event.

However, when the distinguished gentlemen from Chicago appeared at the Lincoln home, they found their candidate not available. A young messenger was immediately dispatched to inform Mr. Lincoln that he had important visitors and was to return home with all possible haste.

At this moment, so the tale goes, Mr. Lincoln was found out on the commons involved in a game of baseball. As the frantic messenger arrived with his important news, he found the tall, prairie lawyer standing at home base, bat in hand. When the messenger relayed his important missive regarding the parlor full of politicians, the sage Mr. Lincoln re-

plied, "Tell the gentlemen that I am glad to know of their coming; but they'll have to wait a few minutes 'till I make another base hit."

Whether Mr. Lincoln actually ever struck a pitched ball is not really known, but it is fact that the game of baseball was played by the soldiers of the North and South during the Civil War. Often, between the terrifying battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Shiloh, the men had long stretches of inactivity. They lay on cots and wrote letters, smoked, read, played chess, checkers, or cards, sang songs, cut wood, wrestled, mended clothes, foraged for food, ate, drilled, played practical jokes, had races, and played baseball.

The last of these was one of the more popular diversions. Many Northern soldiers carried the equipment of the New York game with them. They played whenever they could. Many letters home wrote of accounts of various baseball games played. Some refer to not only the playing of the game, but to the intense betting

that accompanied that activity. Rival companies formed teams and the competition was intense and almost as serious as the battles themselves. The game's appeal cut through sectional differences, finding response in the basic Americanism of both armies. It was a sport that struck a key chord in the spirit of the new country. Westerners learned the game from Easterners, and Southern soldiers learned the game from Northern prisoners.

In prison camps, baseball teams formed for the relief of the boring, and often unendurable prison life. Wearing their slant-visored forage caps or slouch hats, with a broad X of suspenders crossing their backs, they went to bat, swinging cut-down broomsticks or sawed-off fence planks at balls that may have been so many stockings or so much yarn held together by a piece of stitched leather, sometimes with some rubber from an old boot tucked in to make the ball livelier. Next: *The New York game, and "Knickerbocker" rules.*